

Epler's Church, United Church of Christ
Rev. Gary Rarick
Mr. Brian Gibson – Director of Music
Ministers – ALL THE MEMBERS EVERYDAY

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Holy Communion

September 6, 2026 — 9:30 a.m.

*We extend a warm welcome to our guests and visitors.
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here. In order for us to have a record of
your visit, kindly fill out a visitor's card.
We hope you will worship with us again soon.*

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Church Office: Phone: 610-926-1006

Email: eplerschurch@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Gary Rarick

Phone: 610-401-1545 (cell)

Email: pastorrarick@gmail.com

Online: www.eplerschurch.org

www.facebook.com/eplers

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Epler's Church, The United Church of Christ, is a commitment to worship, praise, and honor God as caring and inclusive Christians who seek to learn and grow while continuing Christ's ministry of love, mission, and service in our congregation, community, and the world.

NCH = New Century (black) Hymnal; **GH** = Green Hymnal

(*) Indicates please stand if you are able.

Welcome and Greeting

Prelude

Call to Worship

Leader: Tell the whole congregation of God's people:

This is the day for new beginnings.

All: This is a time of God's appearing.

This is the moment for faithful response.

Leader: Praise God in the assembly of the faithful.

Make melody to God and sing a new song.

All: Praise God for life enriched by love.

Praise God for love that fulfills God's law.

Leader: This is the hour to wake from our sleep.

The energy of God's love fills this place.

All: Here we claim our identity as Christians.

Here we become the church of Jesus Christ.

Invocation

***Opening Hymn**

NCH #70

"God Is Here! As We Your People Meet"

***Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Let us pray together.

**All: O God, we have not been faithful to your
commands. We have been more ready to condemn
than to console, more eager to justify ourselves
than to work for understanding. We feed the**

flames of dissent instead of welcoming the freeing power of forgiveness. We gather as two or three, not to welcome your presence but to gossip about those who are absent. Our sins are destroying us, God. Turn us around to a new way of being. Amen.

(Time of silent prayer.)

***Kyrie**

NCH #750

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

All: Christ, have mercy upon us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

All: Lord, have mercy upon us.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

***Response**

NCH #743

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

As you share the peace with one another, please be respectful of any individuals that may be uncomfortable with physical contact.

Children's Message

Scripture Reader

-Jim Pirtle

Scripture Lesson:

Psalm 149:1-9

Page 693-694

Scripture Lesson:

Romans 13:8-14

Page 216

Scripture Lesson:

Matthew 18:15-20

Page 26-27

Message

“Stay Connected”

-Rev. Gary Rarick

Hymn

NCH #337

“Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

NCH #775

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me. Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God, our Creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now. With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow: To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Offering Invitation

***Offertory Response**

NCH #780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:

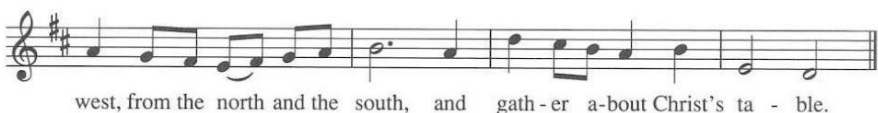
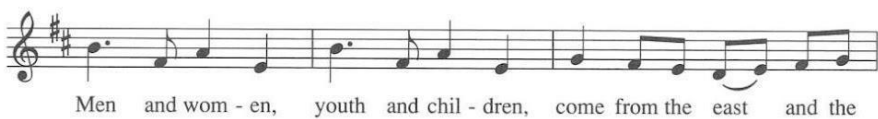
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Offering Blessing**

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Musical Response



Pastor: This table is for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

Communion Prayer

Telling the Story

Prayer of Consecration

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Call to the Supper Sharing the Elements

(Red wine and white grape juice are available.)

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

People: Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Benediction

Three-Fold Amen

***Hymn**

NCH #312

“We Love Your Realm, O God”

Postlude



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Worship Assistants and Sponsors:

The memorial bowl flower is presented to the Glory of God.

The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God.

Consistory Caretaker for this month is Jo-Ann Ketterer.

Acolyte for this Sunday is Amelia Rarick.

Greeter for this Sunday is Robin Ganster.

People in need of our prayers: Scott Wails, Lori Haupt, JoKay Gassert, Lydia Grube, Sandy Weller, Nancy Colver, Amy Keller, Georgia Wails, Denise Jeffries, Lesle Rotter, Mike Kemery, Barry Spatz, Kathy, Judy Kline, Barbara Bond, Scott Graeff, and Curt Lash, Jr.

Homebound Members in need of our prayers: Betty Roth, George Sakacs, Jo-Ann Carter, Phyllis Miller, Alex Cameron, Doris Moyer, Linda King, and Phil Whitmoyer

Military Deployment: Captain David R. Brickey, USAF

Announcements & Upcoming Worship and Activities:

Leesport Community Days: On **September 11th from 5-10 p.m. and September 12th from 4-9 p.m.** we will have a stand at the Leesport Community Days located at 24 Washington Street, Leesport (by the Schuylkill Valley Library). We are in need of help to be at the stand as well as people to make baked goods (hand-held items in individual bags) for a fundraiser. Please sign up for both things in the Sunday School hallway.

At the stand we will have a FREE mini-golf game for the kids; the bake sale where everything will be pre-packaged in individual bags; and a “tell us your favorite movie” sign to encourage people to come and have conversations about who we are as individuals and as a congregation. If you have any questions, speak with Pastor Gary or Stephanie Brickey.

Worship Time Change: Our worship time will change back to **10:30 a.m.** next **Sunday, September 13th**.

PLEASE NOTE: This is the correct date as to what was printed in the August newsletter.

Sunday School Classes resume next **September 13th**, at **9:15 a.m.**

Fall Book Group: Our Book Group will be meeting on **Mondays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning on September 21st.** *Please note this is a week later.* We will be discussing the book *The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith* by Marcus Borg. We will meet for 11 weeks. Please email Pastor Gary if you would like a book ordered for you.

New Custodian Needed: The church leadership has accepted the resignation of our custodian effective at the end of August. We are now looking for a new custodian. If you or someone that you know is interested, please see the information about the job below:

Epler’s Church, UCC is hiring for a part-time custodian to clean the church weekly. The hours are flexible, but the church must be cleaned by each Sunday morning for worship. The hourly rate is \$15.00 with an estimated 3-5

hours per week. Interested candidates should send their resume to Pastor Gary at pastorrrarick@gmail.com.

New Consistory Members Needed: We are looking for EIGHT new consistory members for next year. Please prayerfully consider contributing your time and talents with this great group of people to help allow your voice to be heard. The consistory meets about 11 times a year (and any extra time as needed). We usually have a hybrid meeting on both Zoom and in person. Each consistory members takes a month to be consistory caretaker and open the church on a Sunday morning (and Food and Faith Friday) and get things prepared for the worship services. If you have any questions or are considering coming onto consistory, please contact John Alderman (Pennyenna@aol.com) consistory president or Pastor Gary (pastorrrarick@gmail.com).

Fishbowl for September and October: We will be collecting for Mission Trip Birdsboro, an organization that works with volunteer teams to do “odd jobs” of home repair and cleanup for low-income and elderly community members.

Capital Campaign Project Dedication and Financial Update: Although the capital campaign fundraising portion is not yet completed (we are still collecting through 2028) we have completed all of our projects and even finished, extra thanks to everyone’s generous donations. Join us for a **special congregational meeting** after the worship service on **September 20th**. We will offer a prayer of dedication for all of the projects and give a financial update. Please join us on that day to

celebrate the completion of such wonderful projects and remain after worship for a pot luck time of fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks will be provided.

Schuylkill Valley Food Pantry: Peanut butter will be the next item we will be collecting to donate to the Food Pantry for the next couple of months. Thanks for your generosity in your donations to the SV Food Pantry!
-Heather Ninfo, Missions

2026 Feed My Starving Children Pottstown

Mobilepack: We will be packing meals on **Saturday, September 26th** of rice, etc. for children around the world at the Berean Bible Church of Pottstown 2675 E. High Street Pottstown, PA 19464. It would be for 2 hours **from 8:30-11:00 AM**. Please let Heather Ninfo know as soon as possible if you are interested so I can tell the people who are organizing it how many will be volunteering from Epler's Church.

Pledge Card and 2027 Challenge and Narrative

Budget: The budget committee will be distributing the pledge cards, 2027 challenge budget, and narrative budget around September 20th. We ask that everyone will take the time to read through all of the materials and prayerfully consider what you can contribute to the financial support of our ministry. Stewardship Sunday will be September 20th (a change from prior announcements). **Pledge cards will be due back by Sunday, October 11th.** A celebration of our returned pledges and pot luck lunch will be on October 18th.

Reading Berks CROP Hunger Walk: We will once again be participating as a group to walk as part of the local CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, October 11, at 1:00 p.m. at Gring's Mill.** We are seeking volunteers to walk with us and help us raise funds. You can also make a financial contribution by placing it in the offering plate, handing it to a member of the Mission Team, or by clicking on the link below:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/eplers-ucc>

September Sign-up Sheets: We are in need of a Memorial Bowl sponsor for September 13; an Altar Flower sponsor for September 27; and a Greeter for September 27.

Help is Needed: We are looking for a few more Sunday school teachers for the nursery and youth classes. If you can give one week per month or every two months (or more), we will accept your assistance. The curriculum is on a rotating basis with different ways to teach the Bible stories. These ways include: Bible stories and games, Cooking, Science, Craft, etc. Please prayerfully consider assisting with this meaningful ministry. If you have any questions or are feeling the Spirit encouraging you to help out, please speak with Pastor Gary or Robin Ganster.

Sunday Nursery Care Volunteers Needed: We are asking for volunteers so that we can provide nursery care during every worship service following the Children's Sermon for children in Kindergarten and younger. **Sign-up sheets are available in the nursery school hallway for those who have completed their**

clearances and would like to volunteer. If you do not yet have your clearances, please contact the church office for information on how to obtain them.

Last Sunday's Attendance: 57

Schedule for this week *September 6, 2026:*

Sunday: **9:30 a.m.** - Worship
 -Holy Communion
 1:00-4:00 p.m. - HORC
Tuesday: 7:00-9:00 p.m. - HORC
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal
Thursday: 7:00-9:00 p.m. - HORC
Friday: 5:00-10:00 p.m. - Leesport Community Days
Saturday: 4:00-9:00 p.m. - Leesport Community Days

Schedule for next week *September 13, 2026:*

Sunday: 9:15 a.m. - Sunday School Begins
 10:30 a.m. - Worship
 -Youth Group Outing at Blue Rocks
 1:00-4:00 p.m. - HORC
Monday: 11:00 a.m. - God's Hugs Meeting
Tuesday: 7:00-9:00 p.m. - HORC
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal
Thursday: 7:00-9:00 p.m. - HORC

* HORC – House of Restoration Congregation. A separate congregation that worship in our space.



Welcome Back to Sunday School!

Epler's Sunday School begins **Sunday, September 13, from 9:15 to 10:15 a.m.** Sunday School will begin with Music with Mrs. Feeney in the Craft Classroom.

Pre-K Through Kindergarten

Students will gather in the Nursery Classroom. Our teachers look forward to welcoming new and returning students for Bible stories and crafts. Children may bring a Sunday School offering.

For children under age three, a parent or other adult must remain with the child during Sunday School.

First Grade and Up

Students will meet downstairs in the Social Room. Please bring only your Bible and Bible bag to Sunday School. Stuffed animals and toys should remain at home.

Miss Robin, Miss Jo-Ann, and Miss Janet will teach God's Word through games, cooking, creative drama, science, art, and video. Children may bring a Sunday School offering. *Please remember to eat breakfast before Sunday School. There will be no snack break for students in first grade and above.*

7UP

Students in seventh grade and above will meet in Pastor Gary's office. Miss Brea and Miss Kim will lead the class.

Adult Class

The Adult Class will meet in the Church Office.

Each Sunday School class will have a teacher and an assistant in accordance with the Safe Church Policy guidelines.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Robin Ganster at u24one@gmail.com or Pastor Gary at pastorrick@gmail.com.

We are excited to learn and grow in faith with the children of Epler's Church!

Blessings to all!

Robin Ganster, President, Christian Education Team

MUM ORDER FORM

To help celebrate *Harvest Home* on Sunday, October 1, we will be decorating our sanctuary with colorful fall mums. If you would like to order mums, please indicate your color choice(s) below and return this form **with your payment by Wednesday, September 30th**. Please place your completed form and payment in the offering plate.

The price for each 9" mum is \$5.50. (If paying with cash, please have exact change. No change can be given.)

Thank you!



	Qty.	Total
Yellow	_____	_____
Rust	_____	_____
Purple	_____	_____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

NAME: _____

DEDICATIONS (In Honor of or In Memory of):

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

PLEASE make checks payable to *Epler's Church* and place in offering plate. Thank you!